



# MEMORIALS



## The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion



### DECORATIONS POLICY

The Great Stupa Management understands the importance of floral and ornamental tributes. This policy has been developed to enable maintenance of the Memorial Terrace Garden to a high standard and to help us keep a beautiful, clean, tidy and hazard free environment for visitors, volunteers, and staff.

#### **Plaques:**

All memorials have long-lasting bronze plaques which are included in the cost of the memorial. The plaques are arranged and supplied by the Great Stupa and installed by their authorised agent. The Great Stupa does not permit any wording, photographs or symbols on plaques that may cause offence, and management reserves the right to make the final decision.

Once a memorial plaque or reserved plate is placed to seal the wall niche, items of tribute should not be poked into, or gaps made in the memorial wall or behind plaques. A bronze conical vase (bud vase) can be purchased at the time of arranging the memorial plaque for the placement of such items.

#### **Cleaning the plaques:**

Please seek advice from our Memorial Manager before attempting to clean a plaque. Our plaque manufacturer recommends that only warm soapy water to be used. Cleaning products, chemicals, and even harsh rubbing will remove the protective layer on the plaque, causing deterioration.

#### **Ornaments:**

Are permitted but must be loosely placed. No attempt should be made to permanently attach items to a wall, plaques, or trees without permission from management. Ornaments must be respectful, small, not pose any risk to the public or employees, and must not inhibit the maintenance of the area or impede on others' memorial.

Management may remove any object that extends beyond the boundary of the memorial or place of interment; any item that is in a poor condition, any item tied to or placed at a tree that may inhibit growth or cause damage to the roots, trunk, or branches. Please be mindful if placing plastic or non-recyclable items at a memorial; their impact on the environment can last thousands of years.

Memorial items must be:

- Respectful to the deceased and all visitors
- Safe for all visitors on site, staff, and volunteers to conduct their daily tasks
- Support the aesthetics, standards, and general nature of the Great Stupa
- Respectful of religious and cultural diversity
- Not cause damage to any rose, tree, wall, or impede any walkway

For environmental and safety reasons, the Great Stupa Management is **unable to permit** the following items to be placed.

Naked flames or candles	Lighters or matches
Incense	Alcohol or tobacco items
Fruit or perishable food items	Glass or ceramic objects
Sharp edges or hooks	Tins or aluminium cans
Decorative fencing or spikes	Solar lights
Soft toys	Balloons

### **Flowers and Flower Vases:**

The Great Stupa management will allow both fresh and dried flowers to be placed at a memorial or cremated remains interment site, however, items will be removed if they impede on another person's memorial. Breakable glass, ceramic etc. vases and containers will be removed for safety reasons.

A person may place flowers or tribute into a wall niche that does not have a plaque placed yet. Dead flowers will be removed whenever possible by staff, but visitors may also like to assist us by removing the withered or weathered floral tributes that have previously been placed for a loved one.

### **Vegetation:**

To maintain our high standard of presentation, the planting of shrubs, plants, or any alteration including picking flowers in the Memorial Terrace Garden or surrounding areas, without approval from management is not permitted.

### **Tibetan prayer flags:**

Are not permitted to be tied to a Memorial Tree, as they can cause damage to the branch and inhibit growth. Prayer flags are available for purchase at our Visitors Centre, and hung for you, on an auspicious day in our Peace Park among the Bodhi trees.

### **Maintenance:**

Care and upkeep of the Memorial Walls, Rose Memorials and Memorial Trees is the responsibility of the Great Stupa management. Some of this care may include cleaning the walls and plaques, removing weeds in or around the walls, roses, and trees.

### **Theft or Damage:**

The Great Stupa management is unable to accept any responsibility for the maintenance, theft, or damage of any item of tribute placed at a memorial. Please do not place valuable items.

### **Management of Litter and Waste:**

There are bins located throughout the site to enable the removal of withered flowers, wrapping papers, rubber bands and other handling materials as well as weathered ornaments. The use of these bins will ensure that these products do not create a safety hazard or detract from the aesthetics of the memorial garden.



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